

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Preliminarily, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 7-8, 17-18, 20, 26-27, and 30. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 9-11, 13-15, 17-18, 20, 26-27, and 30-32 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. New claims 33-39 have been added. Support for the amendments and the new claims may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-8, 12, 16, 19, 21, 28-29, and 33-39, as amended, will be pending. Claims 1-2, 7-8, 33-36 and 38-39 are independent.

Claims 1-6, 9-16, 19, 21, 28-29, and 31-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,934 to Aloisio, Jr., *et al.* ("the '934 patent").

Applicants respectfully submit that in light of the amendments to the claims the rejection under the 934 patent is moot. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from claim 20. Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from claim 26.

Similarly, new claims 33-35 are allowable because they include various combinations of the allowable subject matter with former claim 1, while claims 36-39 are allowable because they include various combinations of the allowable subject matter with former claim 2.

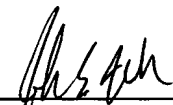
For at least these reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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